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THE SECRET FOUR ✓

Photoplay in two reels

✓ Episode #2 "The House of Intrigue"

Story and scenario by Anthony W. Coldeway

Produced by Albert Russell

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)
Universal Film Mfg. Co. Inc. of the U. S. ✓

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"The House of Intrigue"
THE SECRET FOUR
When the draw-bridge is turned place, Jim slips to place on back of the automobile of Dalravian agents who are following him. Thinking he has escaped to the steamship pier, they speed there—just where he wants to go.

At the pier, where the steamer is about to depart for America, Jim gives them the slip and turns the envelope over to Helen, who finds it contains the information that the oil field had been discovered by Prof. Martin, a celebrated American geologist. The Dalravians have planned to learn the location of the field from him and acquire a lease on them.

Both Helen and Walgrave, who does not suspect her, take the boat for America. Jim also goes aboard as a stowaway and reaches his native land in safety. Helen has won his promise to hasten and inform Prof. Martin of the impending ruse.

Stoddard reaches the humble cottage of the old professor, who is just finishing a chart or map of the oil fields, the directions pertaining to which are written in cipher below. The cipher is taken from a code book supplied by a young woman known to him as the agent of the U. S. government.

Jim arrives in time to warn Martin before the arrival of Reynold's agent of a banking group, also desirous of learning the oil secret. Reynolds offers a vast sum for the secret, but the professor refuses, from patriotic motives.

The professor's granddaughter, Nadine Martin, and her baby sister see Jim order Reynolds from the house.

Offered Fabulous Sum

Professor Martin then shows Jim an envelope containing the great secret, and explains its importance and value. "It is the culmination of years of work," he says, "and I have already been offered a fabulous sum for it, but to anyone who would use it for selfish purposes I refuse to sell it. Tomorrow I go to return it to those by whom I am employed." He does not suspect that his employers are agents of Dalravia.

In the room outside Nadine rises and takes a bucket and leaves for the old well outside. The baby is left in the room. Then Reynolds, the representative of a powerful syndicate of money interests outside the cabin, still determined to get the secret the professor refused to sell. Now, together with one or two men who are with

him, he starts towards the cabin.

While Jim and Nadine are talking Nadine at the well sees Reynolds, whom she knows as the man after her grandfather's secret and who is still hanging around. His sudden appearance frightens her; she rushes into the cabin and Reynolds starts after her. Rushing into the living room, Nadine slams the door and locks it.

Jim and the old professor rush in. Outside Reynolds calls out assuring them that they are in no danger if they will but give him the secret the old professor has just written down. The professor looks at the envelope he holds in his hand and replies that it goes to no one but those who would use it in the interests of this country. Reynolds and his men rush the door as the professor slips the envelope in his pocket.

Realizing that they must escape, Jim now calls to Nadine. He tells her to stand by the door and unbar it when he says the word. He swings up on a rafter over the door, and calls to Nadine. She opens the door, Reynolds and his men rush in, and Jim drops down upon them. A fight follows.

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